

**Central Falls School District
Board of Trustees
Minutes**

July 10, 2007

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson, Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present were: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairperson

Mr. Angelo Garcia, Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Mary Lou Perez, clerk

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues

Mr. Jhomphy Ventura

Not present with an excuse: Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Mr. David Cruise

II. Public Comments:

a. Kathy Luther School's athletic director started by mentioning that parents, athletics and coaches were present at this meeting. Also Ms.

Luther read the philosophy of the Athletic Program and comments. They were as follows:

The primary purpose of the athletic program in CFJHS is to provide an environment in which students can experience self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence, and the ideals of good sportsmanship through athletics. All students are given the opportunity to participate in athletics by choosing from 13 varsity and junior varsity competitive sports offered throughout the year. Student athletes and coaches are reminded that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege; one that carries a great deal of responsibility to one's self and others, to the team, the school and the community.

- CFHS awarded 288 JV and Varsity awards this past school year joining 26,000 student's athletes that participate in the RILL and over 7 million athletes nationwide.**
- The newly renovated trophy case built by Mr. Angel's construction class is a snapshot of the athletic program at CFHS since 1930-present.**

High school sports are not just about winning tournaments, championships rings and wearing a varsity jacket. While they do have their proper place, trophies and victories are not of paramount importance in HS sports, because there is much more to education based sports than simply those ultimate ends HS sports seek to develop the entire student, providing attributes that are equally useful in the gymnasium, the classroom and the world.

Second, in addition to learning the fundamental of the game, HS

students also learn to set priorities and accept responsibility within their own lives. HS sports teach concepts such as hard-work, accountability and discipline-skills that can and do help them succeed within the classroom setting and beyond.

Third, HS sports are about identity and camaraderie. Students identify with their teams, which represent their school and community.

I am proud to be the Athletic Director of CFHS. I am proud of our athletes who perform above standard to make Warrior athletics a high performing respected school of the RILL. At the entrance to the Ronald Cruise auditorium there is a quote “through these halls pass the greatest faculty and students,” included in this group are the greatest and athletes. Please be assured that we have the best kids in the state.

Let us all pause for a moment to imagine the absence of athletics in CFHS. What would this do to our students? How many would transfer to play sports for our rival teams? How many would drop out of school? What happens to the at-risk student? Where is the motivation to succeed? What will the kids do after school?

The success stories are many, for example the graduation class of 2007 boasts of the following athletes and their class rank:

#1 Jeiza Munoz

#2 Carlene Fonseca

#4 Kayla Beaulier

#7 Ana Velez

#10 William Ruiz

#13 Jomarie Rodriguez

Athletics serves as a means to an end. For every success story goes a heart breaking story. A sophomore male student who was academically ineligible to play during his freshman year desperately wanted to play basketball successfully earned that right at Jumpstart this past year and turned out to be a great player. We had a senior wrestler unable to compete this year because he needed to work to pay his rent on his apartment. We have many, many students who live alone and support themselves. Finally, interscholastic activities are an integral part of the educational curriculum at CFHS and represent one of the most important American traditions in our schools. The responsibility of retaining their place within the educational process of young people now rest with the CF School District.

b. Robert Marchand, Soccer coach for Central Falls High school boy's team said that we are the face of Central Falls to the State of RI. Mr. Marchand said that we take it seriously when we get on the bus; we play for the team, the school, the city and asked not to take that away from the High School.

c. Brian Crookes, boy's basketball coach at Calcutt Middle School. Mr. Crookes said that his grandfather played sports here in Central Falls. He also asked the Board not to take sports away. Sports mean everything to the kids at CF high school; sports keep these kids in school.

d. Joe Handy, girl's basketball coach grew up in Central Falls. Mr. Handy attended the high school and said that sports kept him in school. Mr. Handy also said that his heart was pounding that is how much sports means to him, if it wasn't for sports he would not have stayed in school, if it wasn't for sports, he would not be where he is today, it gave him release and made him feel special. He is bringing all that to his basketball team. His girls excel and you see his entire girls graduate.

e. Sakira Wilson plays on the girl's basketball team. Ms. Wilson said that basketball means everything to her, if someone takes that away from her, is like there is no meaning in life anymore. She loves to be a Lady Warrior and tells her friends to become lady warriors and also asked the Board not to take that away from them.

f. Some students came up to describe what sports mean to them, what being a warrior means to them and to also asked the Board to keep sports at CF high school.

g. Mike Bedard, head bus driver said that he has taken some of the students to the games for years and said: "As the head of the bus drivers, I am willing to volunteer my time with no pay to take them where they need to go.

Ms. Anna Cano-Morales said that she could not see Central Falls High School without sports. That she will resign first if that day ever came up. Ms. Cano-Morales mentioned that Dr. Frances Gallo had been able to make serious cuts and managed to keep sports in Central Falls and that Dr. Gallo will be sending a letter to Commissioner Peter McWalters with a passage of the FY08 budget and identifying reductions and adjustments.

Dr. Frances Gallo said that money is extraordinarily tight; we really need to justify what we spend to the legislature. When that time comes and they start asking why we didn't cut sports I need to see each and every one of you and we'll take the bus and let them know that we can not cut sports. Dr. Gallo thanked everyone from the bottom of her heart for coming here today and also asked to write letters and give them to her so she can bring them to the Commissioner and also show them what a true Warrior is and that a true Warrior will never give up, a true Warrior will always stay together.

Ms. Cano-Morales asked the Board members for an approval to sign the letter that will be sent to Commissioner Peter McWalters. The Board gave approval to her request.

Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a 5 minutes recess at 6:40 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

III. Policy and Planning

a. First reading new policies including walking distance to schools

5.1.12.1 Bus Transportation

Transportation will be provided for children residing in the Central Falls School District in the following categories:

1) Special education students will be provided transportation if it is mandated according to their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

2) LEP students in grades 1-3 and grade 4 at Broad Street School who are outside their home school area will be provided transportation if the school to which they are assigned is more than 1/2 radial mile from their home.

3) Students in grades 1-3 who are placed at a school outside their home school area due to class size and/or grouping requirements will be provided transportation if the school to which they are assigned is more than 1/2 mile radial mile from their home.

Mr. Garcia asked how many students will this impact. Dr. Gallo said that they were very careful when they put this together and that it shouldn't be a major impact.

Mr. Garcia also asked about staff. Dr. Gallo said that actually we are looking for bus drivers.

Mr. Ventura asked if there are going to be walking monitors. Dr. Gallo

said that they have been working on establishing safe zones, walking groups.

b. Policy regarding student life and alternate education program.

Alternate Schools

Philosophy

The Central Falls School District wishes to promote diversity and differentiation of instruction in all its schools. However, the District believes that the unique needs of some students require a unique setting and a more individualized approach. For the Central Falls School District, an alternate school may be established to meet these specific student needs. By doing so, the District maintains that the needs of all students may be best served.

In an alternate school setting, the teachers and administrators are expected to develop a governance structure that enables them to function as a shared leadership team monitoring the day to day issues of school life as well as the overarching regulations under which all RI schools must function. This leadership team must have the autonomy to develop and accept alternate routes for students to demonstrate proficiencies.

In an alternate school setting the teachers and administrators work together to build curriculum units that enable the designated district

curriculum to be chunked and delivered in an experiential approach suitable for small groups capitalizing on teacher and community support. Teachers and administrators work together to monitor student progress and make grouping changes based on individualized pacing needs of the students.

In an alternate school setting, the work of the parents as partners in education is fundamental and must be explored and developed to the greatest extent possible. It is in the alternate schools setting that regular communication and face to face meetings are commonplace.

Ms. Cano-Morales said to the Board members that after they carefully read the philosophy if they need to make any changes, suggestions, etc to contact Dr. Gallo.

IV. Action Items:

a. Motion to admit Cranston as a member of UCAP

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues made a motion to admit Cranston as a member of UCAP. The motion was second by Mr. Jhomphy Ventura and

unanimously approved by the Board,

5-0

b. Motion to approve by-law amendment to remove Pawtucket and add Central Falls as a member of UCAP.

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues made a motion to approve by-law amendment to remove Pawtucket and add Central Falls as a member of UCAP. The motion was second by Mr. Jhomphy Ventura and unanimously approved by the Board, 5-0.

c. Motion to amend the by-laws regarding the distribution assets upon dissolution of UCAP.

Ms. Mary Lou Perez made a motion to amend the by-laws regarding the distribution assets upon dissolution of UCAP. The motion was second by Mr. Angelo Garcia and unanimously approved by the Board, 5-0.

V. Executive Session.

Ms. Mary Lou Perez made a motion to go into Executive Session and adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues and unanimously approved by the Board, 5-0.

VI. Consent Agenda:

Ms. Mary Lou Perez made a motion to approve the executive minutes

of June 12, 2007, as well as the amended version of the minutes of June 12, 2007.

Mr. Jhomphy Ventura seconded the motion and unanimously approved by the Board, 5-0.